CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1.   A method for displaying characteristic aids in a display area, said method comprising the steps of:

displaying a user interface comprising at least one displayable object within a display area controlled by a computer system;

monitoring a transparency associated with said at least one displayable object; and

responsive to an initiating event, placing a transparency characteristic aid comprising said monitored transparency of said at least one displayable object within said display area, such that said at least one displayable object is not obscured by said transparency characteristic aid.

2.   The method for displaying characteristic aids in accordance with claim 1, said method further comprising the step of:

responding to an initiating event, wherein said initiating event is at least one of a cursor placement, an occurrence of a user-defined event, and a user input.

3.   The method for displaying characteristic aids in accordance with claim 1, said method further comprising the steps of:

determining a graphical output format for said transparency characteristic aid;

adjusting a transparency of said transparency characteristic aid according to user transparency preferences;

determining a display position for said transparency characteristic aid; and

adjusting said transparency of said transparency characteristic aid according to said display position.

4.   The method for displaying characteristic aids in accordance with claim 1, said step of monitoring a transparency further comprising the step of:

monitoring a plurality of factors that determine said transparency associated with said at least one displayable object.

5.   The method for displaying characteristic aids in accordance with claim 1, said method further comprising the step of:

placing said transparency characteristic aid to maximize space remaining in said display area.

6.   The method for displaying characteristic aids in accordance with claim 1, said method further comprising the step of:

initializing said transparency characteristic aid, wherein said transparency characteristic aid comprises at least one from among text, graphics, video, and audio.

7.   A system for displaying characteristic aids in a display

area, said system comprising:

a graphical user interface controlled by a computer system;

means for displaying at least one displayable object within said graphical user interface;

means for monitoring a transparency associated with said at least one displayable object; and

means responsive to an initiating event, for placing a transparency characteristic aid comprising said monitored transparency of said at least one displayable object within said graphical user interface.

8.   The system for displaying characteristic aids in accordance with claim 7, said system further comprising:

means for responding to an initiating event, wherein said initiating event is at least one of a cursor placement, an occurrence of a user-defined event, and a user input.

9.   The system for displaying characteristic aids in accordance with claim 7, said system further comprising:

means for determining a graphical output format for said transparency characteristic aid;

means for adjusting a transparency of said transparency characteristic aid according to user transparency preferences;

means for determining a display position for said

transparency characteristic aid; and

means for adjusting said transparency of said transparency
characteristic aid according to said display position.

10.   The system for displaying characteristic aids in accordance
with claim 7, said means for monitoring a transparency further
comprising:

means for monitoring a plurality of factors that determine
said transparency associated with said at least one displayable
object.

11.   The system for displaying characteristic aids in accordance
with claim 7, said system further comprising:

means for placing said transparency characteristic aid to
maximize space remaining in a display area of said graphical user
interface.

12.   The system for displaying characteristic aids in accordance
with claim 7, said system further comprising:

means for initializing said transparency characteristic aid,
wherein said transparency characteristic aid comprises at least
one from among text, graphics, video, and audio.

13.   A program for displaying characteristic aids in a display
area, residing on a computer usable medium having computer
readable program code means, said program comprising:

means for enabling display of at least one displayable

object within a user interface;

      means for monitoring a transparency associated with said at least one displayable object; and
      means for controlling placement of a transparency characteristic aid comprising said monitored transparency of said at least one displayable object within said user interface.

14.   The program for displaying characteristic aids in accordance with claim 13, said program further comprising:

      means for detecting an initiating event, wherein said initiating event is at least one of a cursor placement, an occurrence of a user-defined event, and a user input; and

      means for initiating said placement of a transparency characteristic aid following detection of said initiating event.

15.   The program for displaying characteristic aids in accordance with claim 13, said program further comprising:

      means for determining a graphical output format for said transparency characteristic aid;

      means for adjusting a transparency of said transparency characteristic aid according to user transparency preferences;

      means for determining a display position for said transparency characteristic aid; and

      means for adjusting said transparency of said transparency characteristic aid according to said display position.

16.   The program for displaying characteristic aids in accordance
with claim 13, said program further comprising:

    means for monitoring a plurality of factors that determine
said transparency associated with said at least one displayable
object.

17.   The program for displaying characteristic aids in accordance
with claim 13, said program further comprising:

    means for controlling placement of said transparency
characteristic aid to maximize space remaining in a display area
within said user interface.

18.   The program for displaying characteristic aids in accordance
with claim 13, said program further comprising:

    means for initializing said transparency characteristic aid,
wherein said transparency characteristic aid comprises at least
one from among text, graphics, video, and audio.